

# Animals in Danger

*Trying To Save Our Wildlife*



 BOOKS FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS  
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

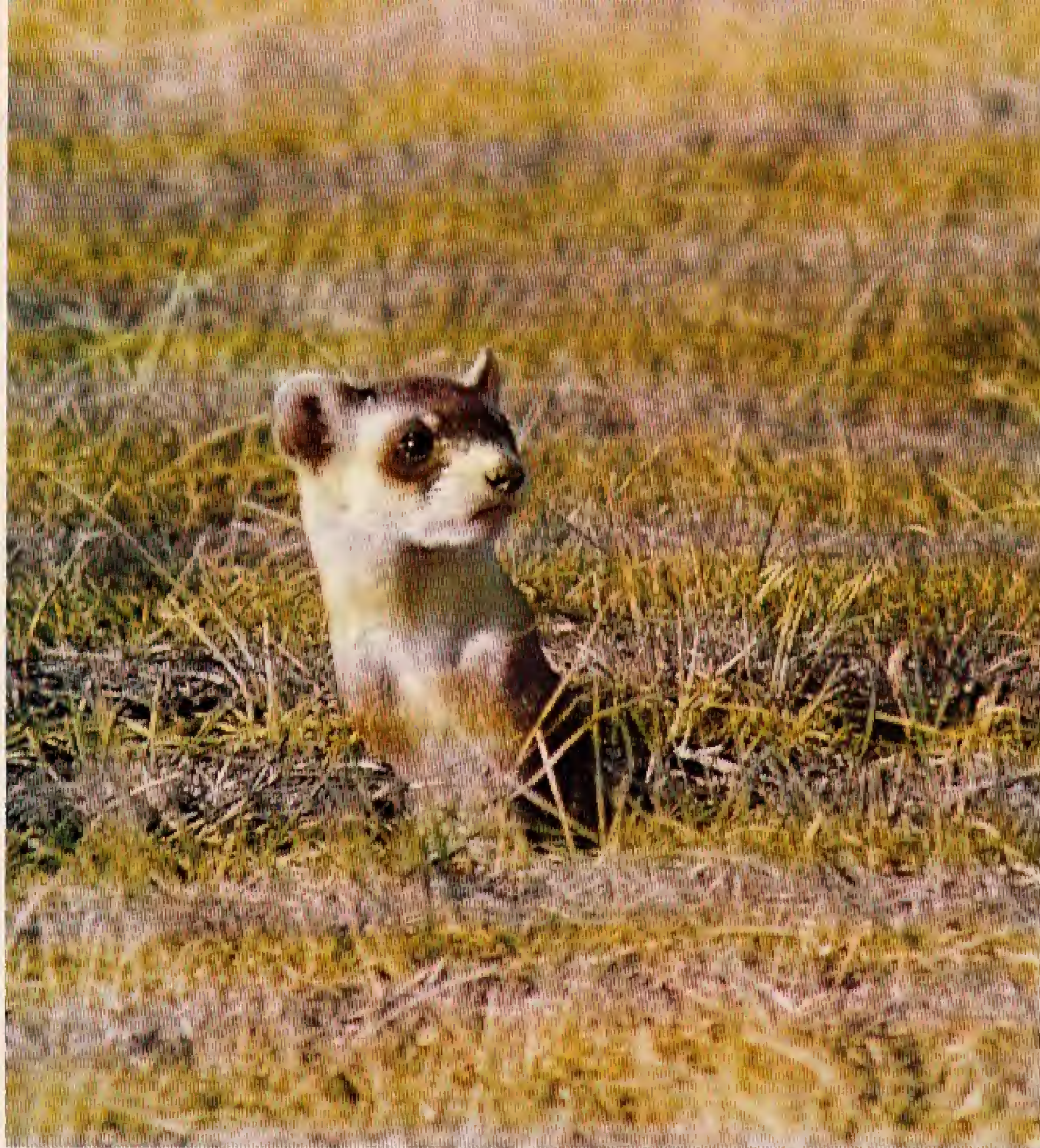












A black-footed ferret looks out of its underground home. There are very few of these animals left in the world.

# Animals in Danger

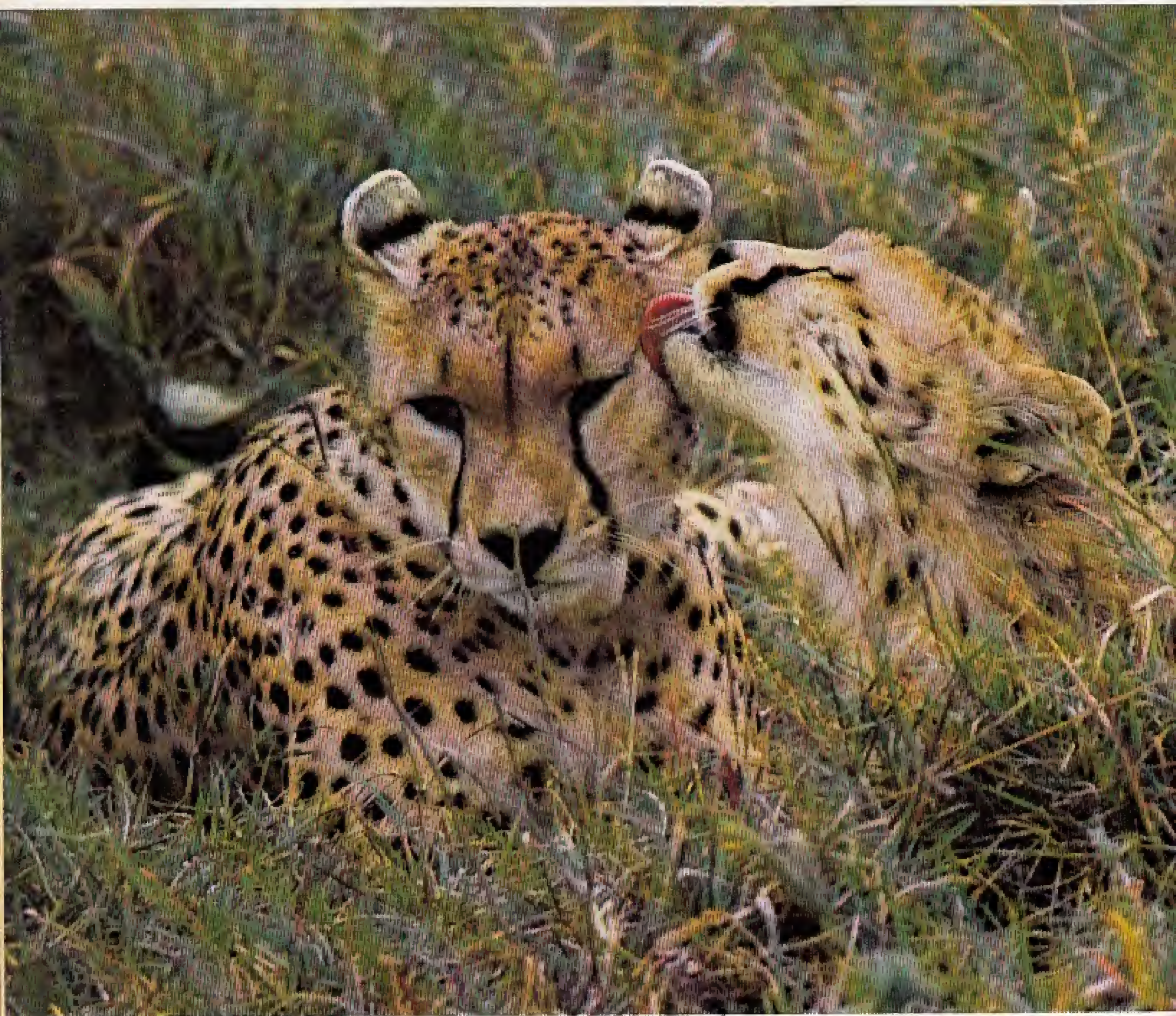
*Trying To Save Our Wildlife*



BOOKS FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS  
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

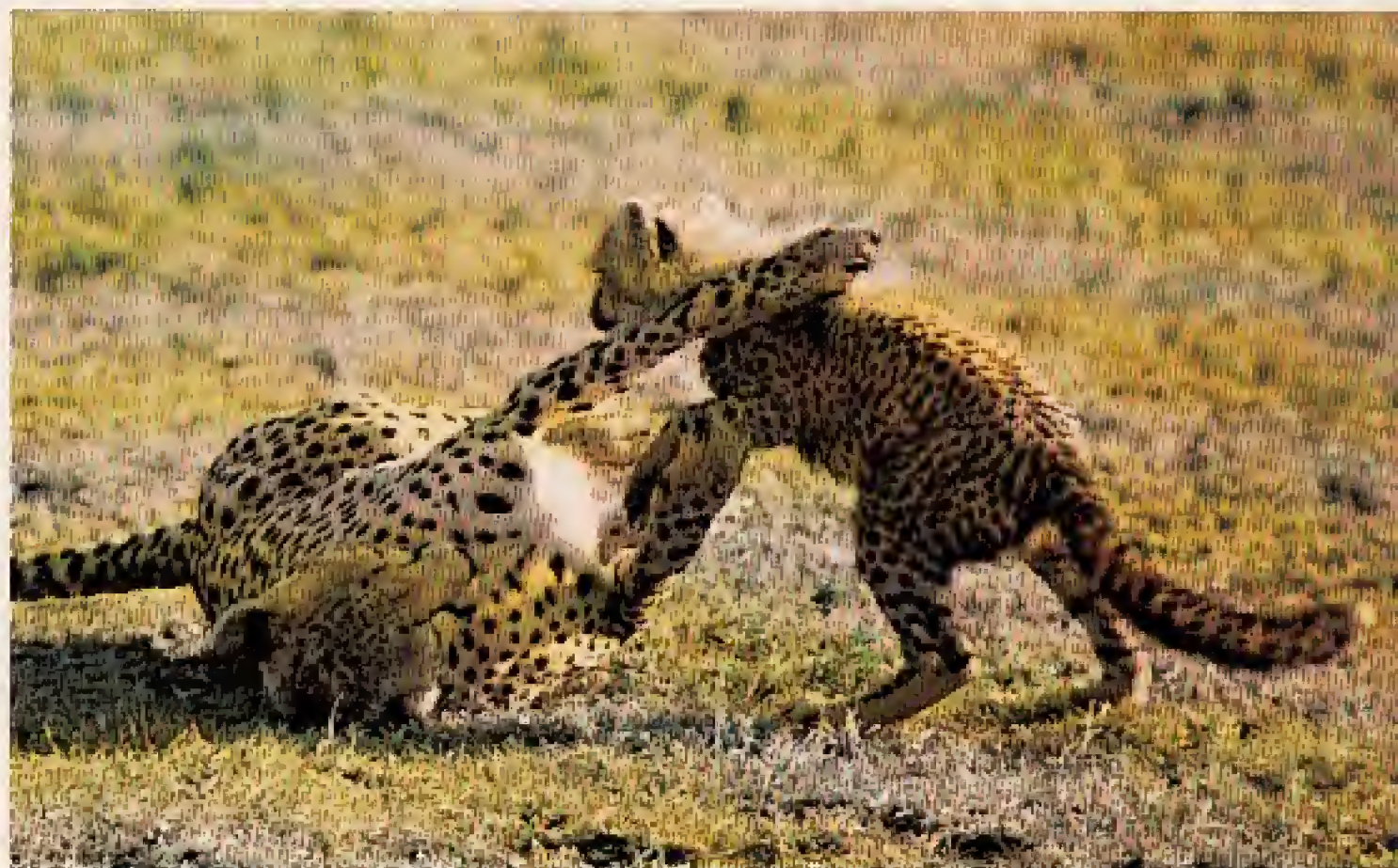
Copyright © 1978 National Geographic Society Library of Congress CIP Data: p. 32





In faraway Africa, a cheetah cub licks its mother's face.  
Another little cheetah stretches after a nap.  
Now it is ready to play. The mother swats the cub  
with her strong front paw. It is a rough game, isn't it?  
But it helps the cub grow strong and learn how to hunt.



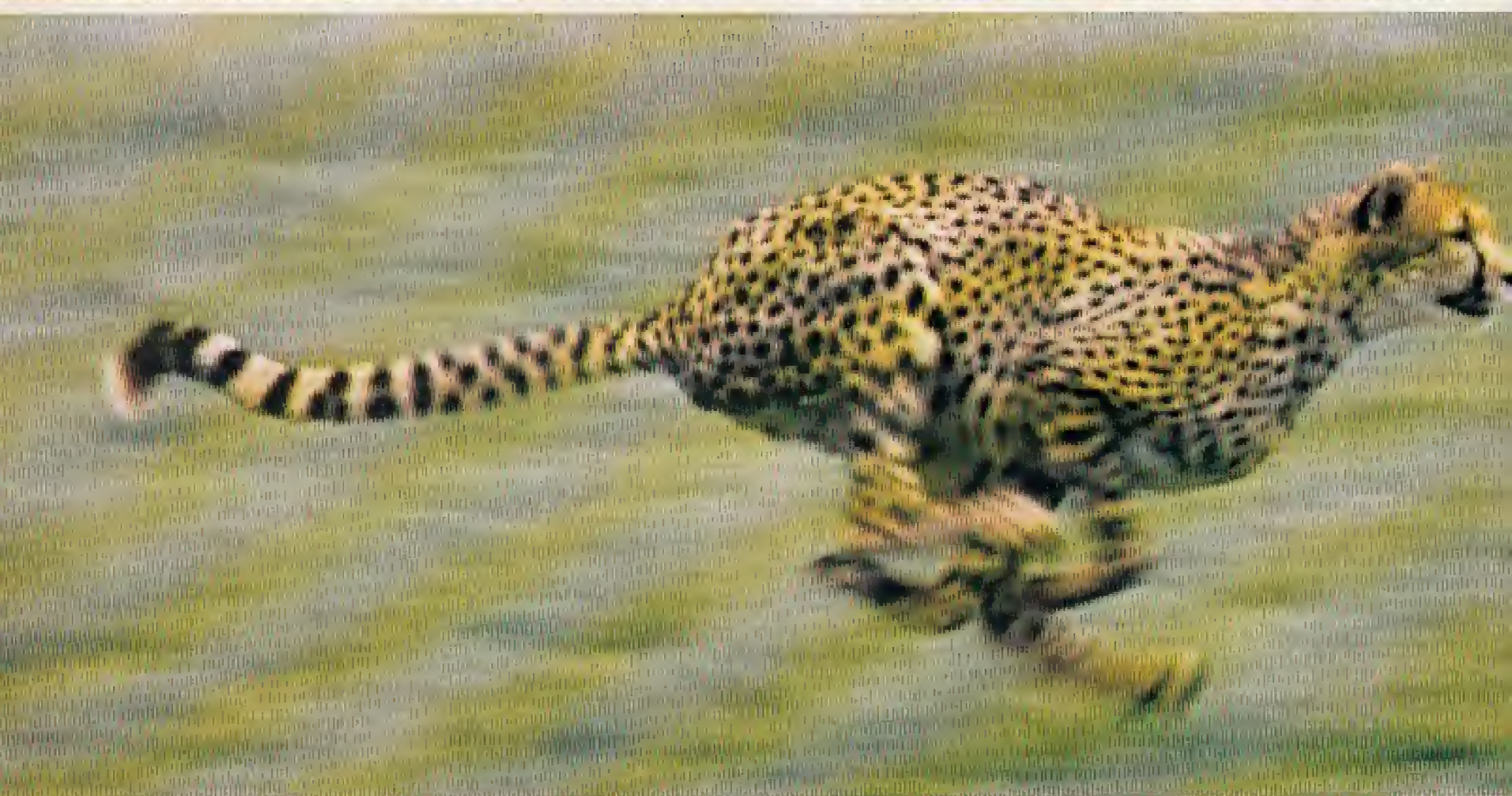
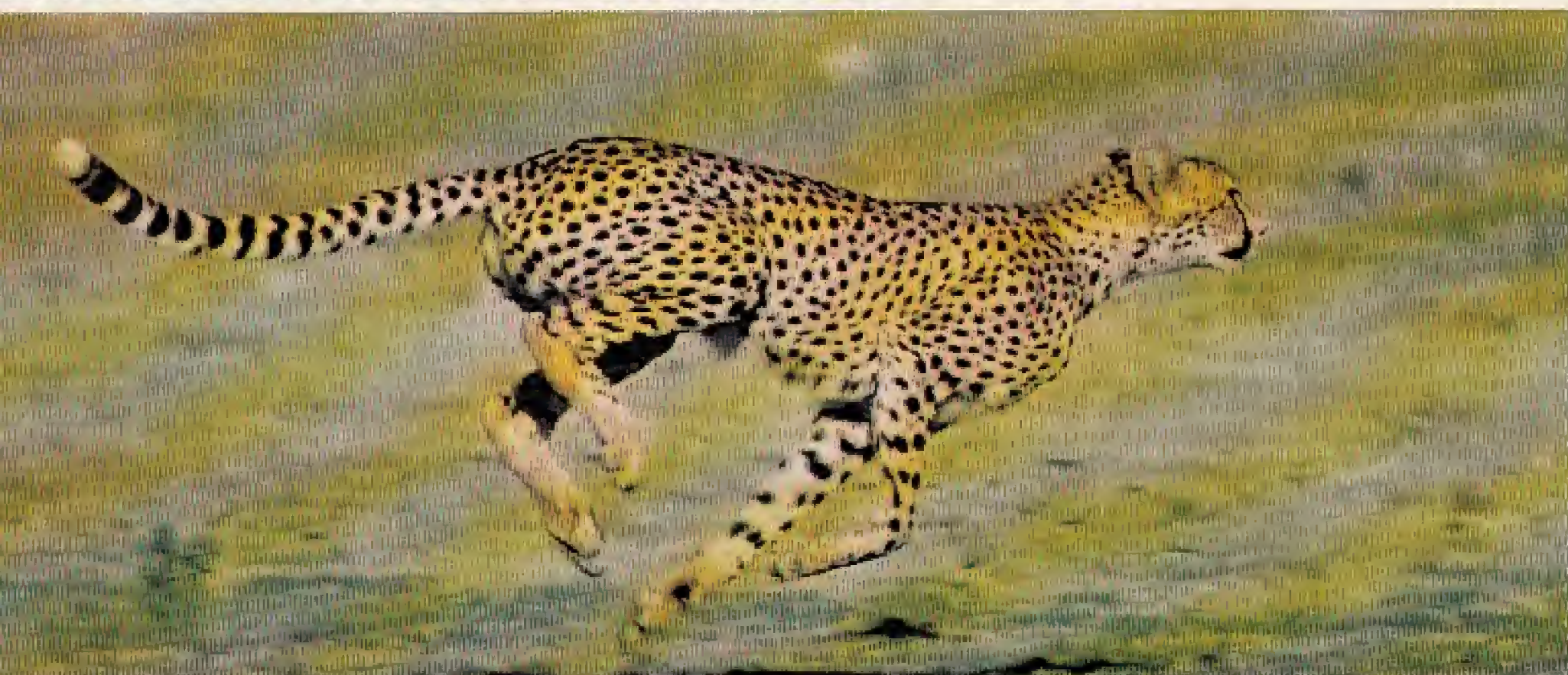


Cheetahs are in danger because people have killed so many of them for their skins. People are also using the land the cheetahs need to hunt for their food. Soon there may not be any wild cheetahs left. Other animals are also in danger of disappearing from the earth forever.





A cheetah hunts alone.  
It creeps forward slowly  
and tries to sneak up close  
without being seen.





Then it begins to run. Suddenly, it dashes forward and runs faster than any other animal in the world. This young cheetah catches an animal to eat. Some animals hunt. Others are hunted. That is the way of the wild.



A woman wears a coat made of cheetah skins. People have killed many cheetahs to make coats like this one. Laws to protect cheetahs may help save these animals.



The wolf hunts for its food, too. Three gray wolves meet on a snowy hill. They wag their tails and lick each other on the face. Wolves live and hunt together in groups called packs. How many wolves do you see in this large pack? The leader lopes through the snow on a long hunt for food.



A farmer tries to shoot a wolf. He is afraid the wolf will kill his farm animals. People have killed so many wolves that they have disappeared from many places. Now laws protect some of the wolves that remain.











A wet baby bear huddles next to its mother.  
Can you see why two older bear cubs are following their mother?  
She has caught a fish for them to eat.  
A young bear with a fish of its own plops into the river.



A park ranger moves  
a bear to a place away from people.  
Wild animals need to live  
in a place of their own.







Two elephants push each other with their trunks.  
They are trying to show how strong they are.  
In contests like this, elephants almost never stab  
each other with their tusks.  
But when elephants fight,  
they use their tusks to cut and slash.





Two hungry elephants snap twigs and rip leaves from trees. Elephants need a lot of food. Each day they eat leaves from many, many trees.

These mothers and calves go to a water hole to drink and bathe. Elephants suck water up into their trunks and give themselves showers.

A trunk can also scratch an itch or rub an eye. It can lift a log or smell danger in the wind.



In Africa, a farmer grows food on land where elephants once lived. Soon there may not be enough wild land for elephants to find food for themselves.











Zoom! A pelican dives into the water to catch a fish.  
Do you see the fish the bird has caught?  
It is in the pelican's pouch.  
Soon the bird flies back to its nest.  
There, a hungry young pelican pokes its head  
deep inside the mother's pouch to get its food.



A man kills an insect with a poison spray.  
If the spray goes into the water,  
it may poison many of the fishes there.  
When pelicans eat fish, they may be poisoned, too.  
Now there are laws against using some insect poisons.





A bald eagle sits on a branch.  
It is holding a fish in its sharp claws.  
High above the water in a tall tree, young eaglets wait in a nest.  
Their parents will bring them food  
until they are old enough to leave the nest.  
Then the little eagles can begin to feed themselves.





A man cuts down a tree to make room for houses. Eagles have lost another tree where they could build nests. In places called refuges, people save trees for eagles.



The golden lion marmoset is a very small monkey.  
This family of four marmosets lives in a zoo.  
The father leans over to sniff one of his twin babies.  
At the same time, the mother stretches out to rest.  
Can you see the other baby? It is climbing on its mother's back.



A baby marmoset born in a zoo drinks from a bottle.  
Scientists are raising marmosets and other rare animals in zoos.







A giant gorilla  
munches  
a leafy vine.  
This great ape  
lives in a  
mountain forest  
in Africa.  
Sometimes gorillas  
stand up tall  
and thump  
on their chests.  
They beat  
the ground  
and hoot and growl.  
But gorillas are  
not fierce. They are  
gentle and shy.













This gorilla baby  
cuddles close  
to its mother.  
Another young ape  
bends branches  
to make a nest  
for a nap.

Young gorillas  
like to play.  
They slide and  
tumble and chase  
and tickle  
each other.



A scientist watches a gorilla.  
Learning how gorillas live  
may help us  
protect these animals.







A herd of shaggy bison stampedes across the grassland.  
They sound like the rumble of a thunderstorm.  
Two male bison are charging each other.  
They ram heads and bang horns.  
They are in a contest to find out which one is stronger.  
They fight until one gives up. The loser will turn away and begin to graze.



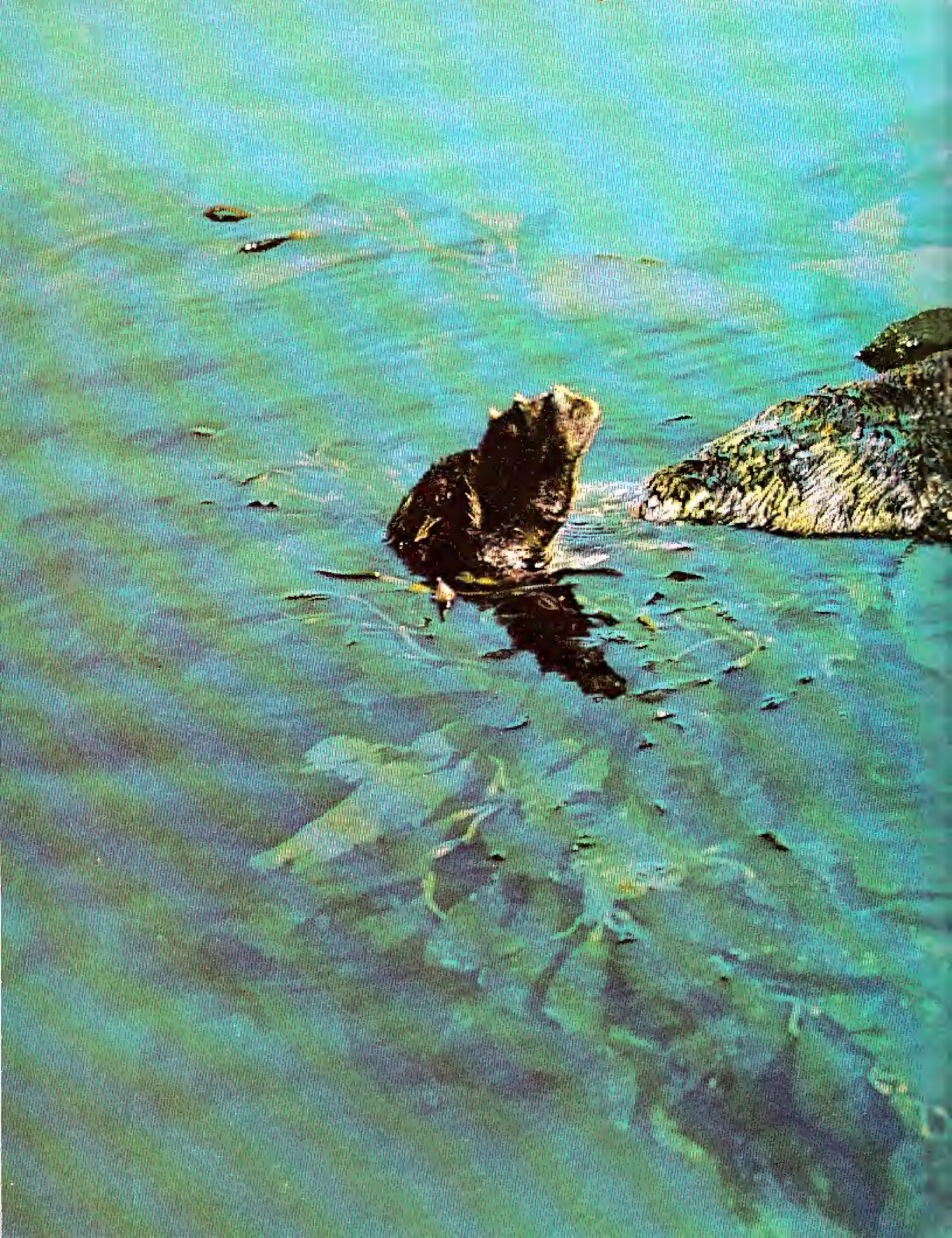
Bison, also called buffalo, now live in protected places. Once hunters killed so many of these animals that there were only a few left.



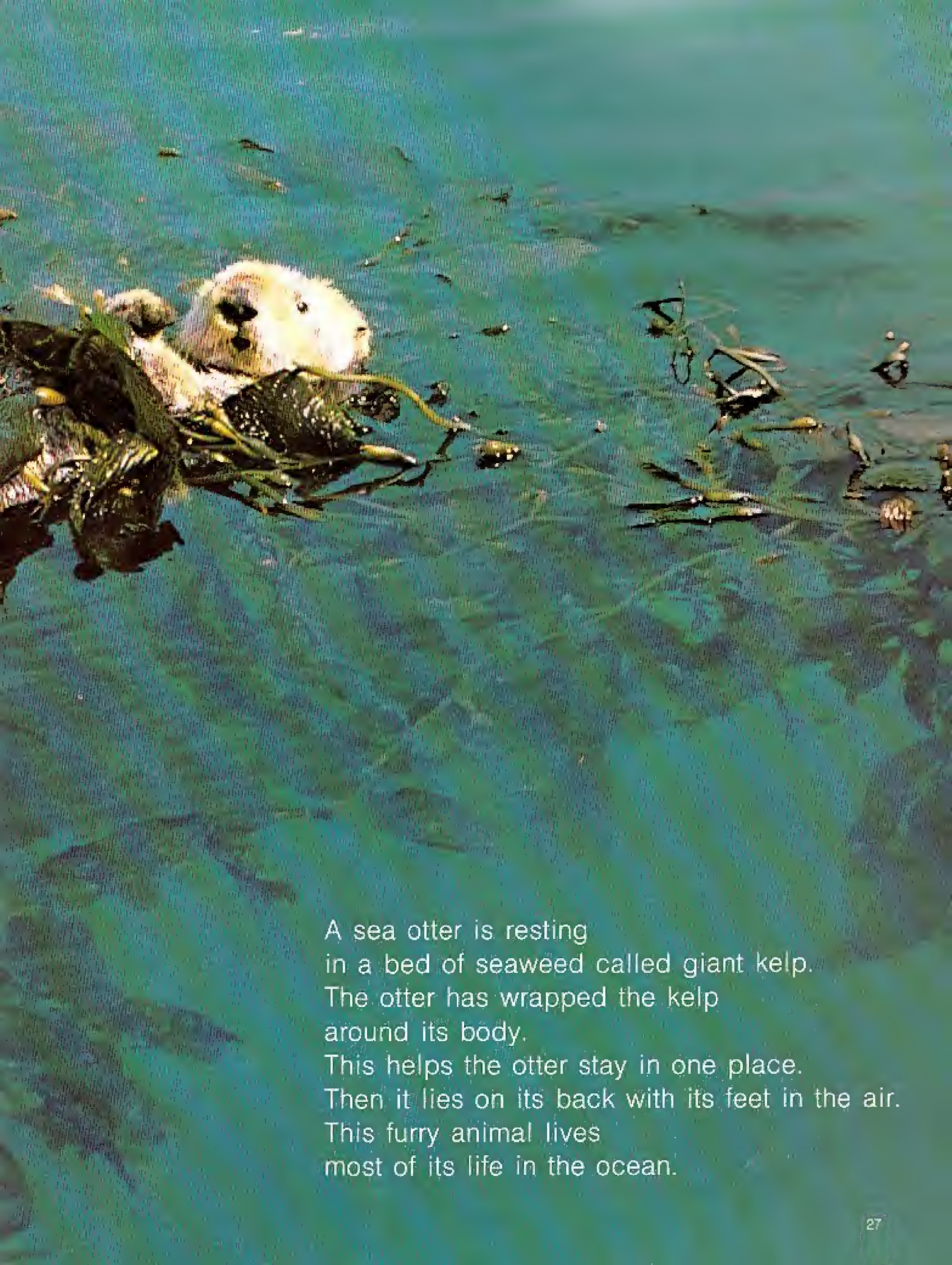












A sea otter is resting  
in a bed of seaweed called giant kelp.  
The otter has wrapped the kelp  
around its body.  
This helps the otter stay in one place.  
Then it lies on its back with its feet in the air.  
This furry animal lives  
most of its life in the ocean.



Sea otters dive deep underwater for their food.  
Near the bottom, one otter has found  
an animal called a sea cucumber.  
The otter carries its food up to the surface before eating it.  
Another otter holds a shellfish and scoops out the soft insides.  
After it eats, the otter rolls over in the water  
to wash away the food that sticks to its fur.







Men made laws against killing sea otters.  
People stopped hunting them for their fur.  
Now there are more otters in the sea.



Two humpback whales  
swim slowly along.  
They sing strange  
songs underwater.  
No one really knows  
why humpbacks sing.  
We need to know more  
about whales  
and other animals.  
We also need to learn  
how to share  
the world  
with whales and  
all other living things.



People who care about whales are  
trying to make other people care, too.  
If people care enough,  
they may save the whales  
and many other animals in danger.







Published by The National Geographic Society  
Robert E. Doyle, *President*; Melvin M. Payne, *Chairman of the Board*  
Gilbert M. Grosvenor, *Editor*; Melville Bell Grosvenor, *Editor Emeritus*

Prepared by The Special Publications Division  
Robert L. Breeden, *Editor*; Donald J. Crump, *Associate Editor*  
Phillip B. Silcott, *Senior Editor*; Cynthia Russ Ramsay, *Managing Editor*  
Peggy D. Winston, *Writer*  
Stephen J. Hubbard, *Researcher*; Jane Clarke, *Communications Research Assistant*

*Illustrations*  
Geraldine Linder, *Picture Editor*; Jody Bolt, *Art Director*  
Lisa Biganzoli, *Cartoon Artist*

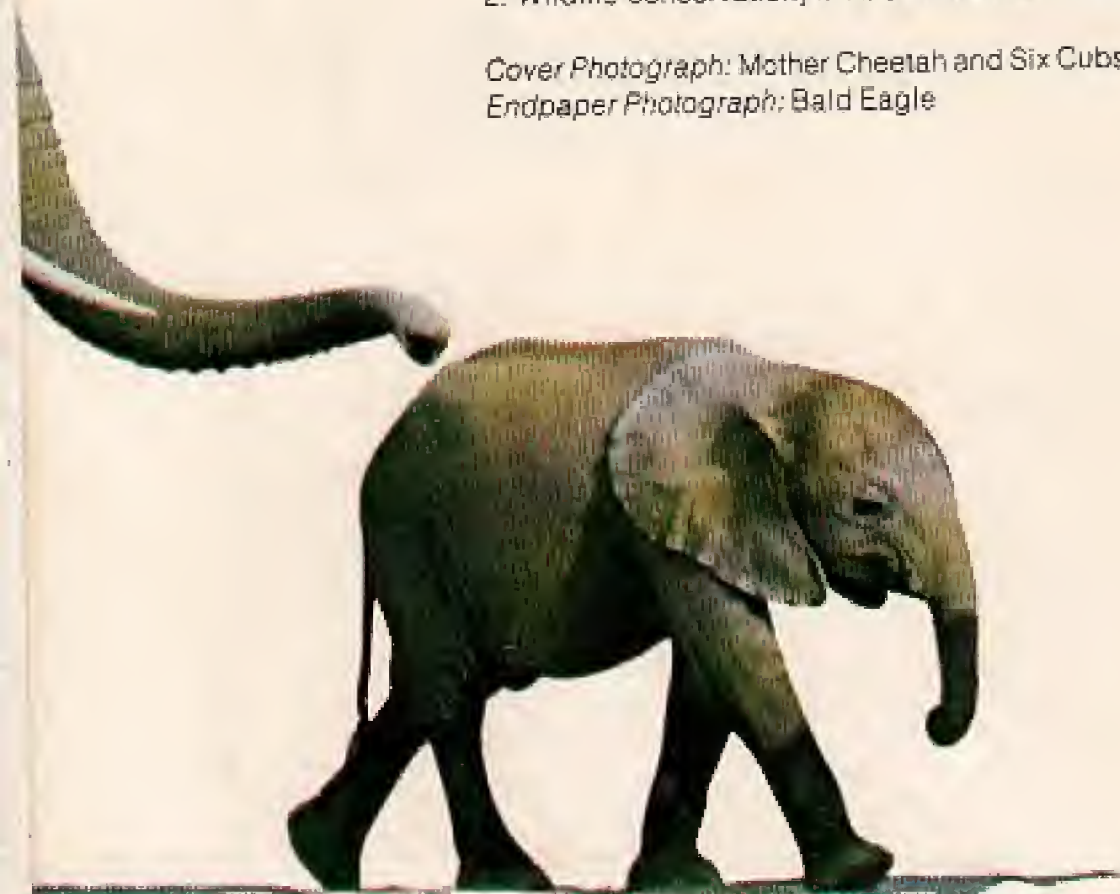
*Production and Printing*  
Robert W. Messer, *Production Manager*  
George V. White, *Assistant Production Manager*  
Raja D. Murshed, June L. Graham, Christine A. Roberts, David V. Showers, *Production Assistants*  
Debra A. Antonini, Barbara Bricks, Jane H. Buxton, Rosamund Garner, Suzanne J. Jacobson,  
Amy E. Metcalfe, Katheryn M. Stocum, Suzanne Venino, *Staff Assistants*

*Consultants*  
Dr. Glenn O. Blough, Peter L. Munroe, *Educational Consultants*  
Edith K. Chasnov, *Reading Consultant*  
Ronald M. Nowak, Office of Endangered Species, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *Scientific Consultant*

*Illustrations Credits*  
Luther C. Goldman (1); Mohamed Amin, Bruce Coleman Inc. (2-3); Peter S. Thacher, Photo Researchers, Inc. (3 top); Wolfgang & Candice Bayer (3 bottom); Dr. E. R. Degginger (4 top); M. Philip Kahl (4 center); John Dominis, Time-Life Picture Agency (4-5 bottom); Thomas Nebbia (5); Tom McHugh, Photo Researchers, Inc. (6 top); Gordon C. Haber (6-7 bottom); John L. Ebeling (7 right); Tom Myers (8, 22); Jeff Foott (9 top, 16-17, 26-27); Mike Luque, Photo Researchers, Inc. (9 bottom); R. S. Virdee, Bruce Coleman Inc. (10-11); Sven-Olof Lindblad, Photo Researchers, Inc. (12); Norman Myers, Bruce Coleman Inc. (12-13); Michael E. Long, National Geographic Staff (14); Frederick Kent Truslow (15 top); Ralph W. Schreiber (15 bottom); Jeff Foott, Bruce Coleman Inc. (16, 28-29 bottom); George Wallers, Oklahoma City Zoo (18); Frank Roberts, Animals Animals (19); Robert M. Campbell (20-21, 23); M. Woodbridge Williams, (24-25 top); Charles Palek, Tom Stack & Associates (24-25 bottom); James A. Mattison, Jr., M.D. (28-29 top, 29 center); Sylvia A. Earle, Sea Films Inc. (30-31); Fran Allan, Animals Animals (32); Cover Photograph: Wolfgang Bayer; Endpaper Photograph: George Galicz, Photo Researchers, Inc.

*Library of Congress CIP Data*  
Animals in danger. National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C. (Books for young explorers)  
SUMMARY: Brief text and pictures describe the habits and behavior of a variety of endangered animals. Cartoons explain some of the efforts being made to protect these animals.  
1. Rare animals—Juvenile literature. 2. Wildlife conservation—Juvenile literature. [1. Rare animals. 2. Wildlife conservation] I. Title. II. Series. QL83.N37 1978 599 77-95411 ISBN 0-87044-261-9

Cover Photograph: Mother Cheetah and Six Cubs  
Endpaper Photograph: Bald Eagle



A pat from a mother's trunk  
makes a baby elephant feel safe.



